



**Billing Code 4310–55**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–HQ–MB–2015–N019; FXMB37660900000–14X–FF09M12000]**

**Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Migratory Birds and Wetlands Conservation Grant Programs**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. We summarize the ICR below and describe the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This information collection is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2015. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. However, under OMB regulations, we may continue to conduct or sponsor this information collection while it is pending at OMB.

**DATES:** You must submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB–OIRA at (202) 395–5806 (fax) or [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) (email). Please provide a copy of your comments to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803 (mail), or hope\_grey@fws.gov (email). Please include “1018–0100” in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Hope Grey at hope\_grey@fws.gov (email) or 703–358–2482 (telephone). You may review the ICR online at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to review Department of the Interior collections under review by OMB.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Information Collection Request**

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0100.

*Title:* Migratory Birds and Wetlands Conservation Grant Programs.

*Service Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Description of Respondents:* Domestic and foreign individuals, businesses, and other for-profit organizations; educational organizations; not-for-profit institutions; and Federal, State, tribal and local governments

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion.

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	COMPLETION TIME PER RESPONSE	TOTAL ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS
NAWCA Small Grants – Applications	71	71	40 hours	2,840
NAWCA Small Grants – Reports	99	99	33 hours	3,267
NAWCA U.S. Standard Grants – Applications	69	69	203 hours	14,007
NAWCA Canadian and Mexican Standard Grants – Applications	27	27	80 hours	2,160
NAWCA Standard Grants – Reports	177	177	30 hours	5,310
NMBCA Grant Applications	84	84	60 hours	5,040
NMBCA Reports	71	71	40 hours	2,840
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>598</b>		<b>35,464</b>

*Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None.*

*Abstract:* The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation administers grant programs associated with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Public Law 101–233, and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), Public Law 106–247.

### **North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants**

NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both are competitive grants programs and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute to a project, but are not eligible as a match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and enhancement of

wetlands and associated uplands habitats. In Mexico, partners may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States. It supports the same types of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the NAWCA Grants Program.

We publish notices of funding availability on Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>), as well as in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (<https://www.cfda.gov>). To compete for grant funds, partnerships submit applications that describe in substantial detail project locations, project resources, future benefits, and other characteristics that meet the standards established by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and the requirements of NAWCA. Materials that describe the program and assist applicants in formulating project proposals are available on our Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA>. Persons who do not have access to the Internet may obtain instructional materials by mail. We have not made any major changes in the scope and general nature of the instructions since OMB first approved the information collection in 1999.

## **Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act**

NMBCA establishes a matching grant program to fund projects that promote the long-term conservation of neotropical migratory birds and their habitats in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Principal conservation actions supported are:

- Protection and management of populations.
- Maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of habitat.
- Research and monitoring.
- Law enforcement.
- Community outreach and education.

We publish notices of funding availability on Grants.gov as well as in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. To compete for grant funds, partnerships submit applications that describe in substantial detail project locations, project resources, future benefits, and other characteristics that meet the standards established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the requirements of NMBCA.

Materials that describe the program and assist applicants in formulating project proposals for consideration are available on our Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA>. Persons who do not have access to the Internet may obtain instructional materials by mail. We have not made any major changes in the scope and general nature of the instructions since OMB first approved the information collection in 2002.

## **Comments Received and Our Responses**

*Comments:* On October 22, 2014, we published in the *Federal Register* (79 FR 63159) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on December 22, 2014. We received one comment. The commenter objected to the grant programs, but did not address the information collection requirements. We have not made any changes to the information collection.

## **Request for Public Comments**

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold

your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: January 21, 2015

---

Tina A. Campbell,  
*Chief, Division of Policy and Directives Management,*  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

*[FR Doc. 2015-01341 Filed 01/26/2015 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 01/27/2015]*